US views on sale of Chinese technology to Pakistan for Nuclear Programme

535. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government ignored the sale of Chinese technology and equipment to Pakistan for its Nuclear Programme for many years; and

(b) in the view of the new chapter in relationship with the US, what action Government are taking to solicit for more meaningful response from the US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) After the end of the Cold War, the US Government has given greater priority to the issue of external assistance to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes in the context of its overall bilateral relations, including economic relations, with the countries concerned. The United States has imposed sanctions of certain Chinese entities in 1991 and 1993 for missile transfers to Pakistan. However, it is assessed that these actions have neither been consistent or robust enough to completely deter such transfers.

(b) Government has been conveying to the US the adverse effect on India's security of continuing transfers of nuclear and missile technology and equipment to Pakistan, including in the context of the ongoing dialogue on security issues. The recently established Asian Security Dialogue with the US provides an additional forum for exchange of views on regional security issues, including ongoing nuclear and missile proliferation in our neighbourhood. A senior US official has stated on 8th July at the conclusion of the US-China non-proliferation talks in Beijing that the US raised its concerns over the reports that Chinese entities had provided assistance to missile programmes in Pakistan and other countries.

10—15 GIPMR/2001